

REMARKS**Responses to Section 112 Rejections**

The Examiner rejected claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, para. 2, as allegedly being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter that Applicant regards as the invention. In particular, the Examiner states that claim 1 fails to clearly and positively claim any structural limitations which enable one to determine (1) what structurally constitutes a "wobbler" or enables wobbling movement and (2) the structural engagement and the functional relationship between the other end of each piston and the parallel kinematic machine.

In the interview dated February 25, 2010, the Examiner requested that claim 1 be restructured so that the relationship between the elements of the claims and the structure of the wobbler would be more positively recited. According to the Examiner, restructuring the claims accordingly would resolve the 112 problems, and demonstrate how the structure differentiates from the prior art.

In the interview dated March 31, 2010, the undersigned discussed a proposed claim 10 with the Examiner, and the Examiner made certain suggestions to more clearly define the invention in the proposed claim 10.

As such, the Applicant has cancelled all existing claims, and submitted a new set of claims, including independent claim 10 and dependent claims 11-17. Claim 10 contains changes that respond to each of the Examiner's suggestions regarding the proposed claim. Dependent claims 14, 15 and 16 are identical to claims 8, 3 and 4, respectively, in Applicant's April 10, 2009 response except that they depend from new claim 10. The remaining dependent claims are new.

Specifically, the applicant has positively recited the structure of the parallel kinematic positioning machine as having a frame and an arm that is mounted to said frame such that it can slide axially within the frame and swing in all directions relative to the frame. The machine-connected positioning head is mounted on an end of said arm and at least three machine-setting devices are circumferentially spaced about the frame and mounted to the frame by universal joints. Each machine setting device is clearly identified as comprising a piston-displaceable axially in a cylinder, and having an end connected by an arm joint to the machine-connected positioning head.

The applicant has also defined each arm joint as comprising a wobbler which wobbler is further defined as comprising "a supporting shaft having a main axis and an offset cylindrical portion defining an external bearing mounting surface, said offset cylindrical portion having an axis that has a constant angular offset from the supporting shaft and intersecting with the main axis, thus defining a wobbler axis, said supporting shaft mounted to the machine-connected positioning head at positions tangential to the circumference of the machine-connected positioning head...."

The relationship between these elements in operation is also clearly recited in the wherein clause: "displacing the pistons in their respective cylinders in each machine setting device rotates the offset cylindrical portion of the wobbler around its axis which in turn tilts and displaces the supporting shaft relative to the machine setting device, thus bringing the machine-connected positioning head to a different position in space relative to the frame."

Applicant believes that these amendments not only help to clarify the structural limitations but also help make clear the distinctions between applicant's invention and the prior art.


Responses to Section 102 and 103 Rejections

The Examiner had rejected claims 1-3 and 6-9 as being anticipated by Schaeffler Waelzlager (DE 199 04 702) (previously referred to as "Lunz" in prior office actions). The Examiner also rejected claim 4 as obvious over the same reference. As clarified, the Schaeffler Walzlager does not have the claimed features, including a wobbler as defined in the claims that, as the arm joint, connects an end of the machine setting device to the machine-connected positioning head. Clearly joint 8 of Schaeffler Walzlager does not have the wobbler structure or function set forth in the claims.

As such, Applicant respectfully requests allowance of the newly submitted claims. If there are any questions or comments regarding this Amendment or application, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned attorney as indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

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Grantland G. Drutchas

Telephone: 312-913-0001
Facsimile: 312-913-0002

McDonnell Boehnen Hulbert & Berghoff LLP
300 South Wacker Drive
Chicago, IL 60606